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A Spineless "Patriot"

(Escanaba Journal.)

Contrary to all newspaper rules the Morning Press and the Daily Mirror have published an anonymous communication signed "A Patriot." This letter would not have been published in the Morning Press had it not been a clam at the son of the editor of The Journal, and it would not have been published in the Daily Mirror if the Morning Press had not published it.

The Journal wishes to apologize to the rattlesnake family. We have often referred to that yellow pup, Norton as a "rattlesnake." Why, the sneaking cur isn't fit to be chambermaid in the slimmest den of rattlesnakes on the earth, and the cowardly alink who signs himself "A Patriot" isn't fit to be shoe-wiper for Norton. And we think we should not have to make over three guesses to tell who the "A Patriot" is. And if the slinking coward will give us the opportunity we will tell him to his face what a miserable sneak he is.

It was just a side-swipe at the editor of The Journal because of the liquor fight of the past years. The vile mess of sneaks have got bumped so often that they have decided it is wise to leave the writer alone, and now they take a nasty swipe at a boy who happens to be the writer's son.

And that boy is over in France on the firing line with his regiment of artillery, helping to make the world safe for such sneaks as Norton and "A Patriot." That boy came home

from "Tech" even before war was declared, to volunteer for war service. At that time the government was frantically appealing for volunteers. That appeal was kept up for four months or more, and at that time only 170,000 out of America's 100,000,000 enlisted as volunteers. That is America's disgrace and we are willing to declare it from the hills and from the housetops.

And, what is more, we are willing to go on record as declaring that the 170,000 American boys who volunteered aren't to be classed with those who waited to be drafted.

And we are slightly proud that our boy is one of the 170,000, and we don't care who knows it.

But, in making that statement, we wish to add that we believe the National Army boys will fight just as bravely and die, if necessary, just as gamely as will the boys of the Regular Army. We would not, if we could detract from the glory and honor that is theirs. They are making sacrifices that the world knows not of, and their names shall forever be emblazoned upon the country's and the world's roll of honor. We respect and honor any soldier, either volunteer or drafted, who does his duty bravely and manfully.

But getting back to those few lines in our boy's letter which caused "A Patriot" so much concern: The letter was read and ok'd by the first lieutenant of Battery A, 10th U. S. Field Artillery and was also read and passed by his royal Nibbe, the censor. Had the lieutenant and the censor been fearful of the peace and dignity of the army because of those few words they would have been deleted.

But this bootblack to the chambermaid in the den of rattlesnakes is "going to take this matter up with Gov.

Sleeper and Secretary of War Baker and see if young Baldwin cannot be punished." Go to it, your miserable sneak. You have been trying to "get" the father and failed; now you will try to strike him through his son. O, you dirty devil. We would spit on you if we knew who you are. You will try and have "would-be hero Baldwin" "punished" because you don't like his dad. Pretty specimen of "A Patriot" you are. Strike a boy on the firing line in the back, will you? And you call yourself "A Patriot"? If you will make yourself known at 422 Ludington street, you will be told what you are and mighty quick, too.

And this "A Patriot" wants "young Baldwin punished" because he stated, what is well known to be a fact, that "the Regular army boys do not have much admiration for the drafted men." Well, go to it. We can easily imagine what the Regular army boys and the war department will say about your complaint.

So far as "would-be hero Baldwin" is concerned, he can stand it. He is just as good a man as his dad is, and has dad has been thriving pretty well under the cowardly attacks of the Escanaba mess of sneaks for 12 years. Yes, go to it, you dirty devil.

The most recent and docile accessions to the Sunday school are ex-Kaiser Bill and son, Willie. What good little boys they are getting to be all of a sudden.

Lots Big Drain Job.

Henry P. Snyder, county drain commissioner, recently let a contract for extending, widening and deepening what is known as the Campbell creek drain. It is 11 1-2 miles long, the longest drain with which Mr. Snyder has had to deal since he assumed the office. It starts a half mile south and 1 1-2 miles east of Clarksville and empties into Coldwater river near Freeport. Pedlar lake, 1 1-2 miles long, was also let the same day, being a tributary of the larger drain. The John W. Smith Dredge Co. of Port Huron, has the contract and will use two dredges on the job, which is to be finished by January 1, 1920.

Mr. Snyder estimates that the Campbell creek drain and its tributary will reclaim 1,500 acres of land that has been practically worthless in the counties of Ionia and Barry. The job will cost those who will be benefited the sum of \$55,000.

Very little opposition was encountered by the drain commissioner, and there is none in sight.

Mr. Snyder was reelected commissioner last month, receiving an increase of about 750 over his majority the first time he was elected.—Portland Review.

It is denied that the anti-trust laws haven't done anyone any good, as the lawyers of the country have made a lot of money out of them.

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The Day's Best Thoughts

The Art of Life and Building

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No. 41. IN THE SPIRIT OF SIMPLICITY

By Walter A. Dyer

It is unfortunate that the words simple and simplicity are used with so many shades of meaning. We employ them with a bit of scorn or condescension sometimes. To speak of a person as simple may suggest a lack of wits, or at least a lack of desirable sophistication. A simple home may mean to most of us a plain affair, to be spoken of patronizingly.

But in their best sense, the words simple and simplicity connote something dignified and noble. Lincoln was a simple man. There is a grand simplicity about a mountain. "To be simple," said Emerson, "is to be great."

I have always felt a strong admiration for the attribute of simplicity, using the word in its better sense. It means sincerity and straightforwardness, whether we apply the word to personal character, to literary style, or to architecture. It is simplicity that makes things readily understandable. Browning was honest and robust enough but he was not simple, and so his message is lost on the majority of people. Simplicity of style is what makes Charles Lamb more enjoyable reading than Henry James, yet his style is none the less graceful for its simplicity.

In the realm of architecture and the applied arts the technique of true simplicity is a powerful force. It was the loss of principles of simplicity that caused the downfall of Chippendale and the designers of the Louis XV period. It is largely the simplicity of the classic which recommends it to us as a basis for modern architecture and decoration. And whenever man has wearied of over-elaborate ornamentation and meaningless novelties there has always been a return to the classic as a source of inspiration.

The so-called Victorian era, which we usually think of with a smile, was characterized largely by an effort to be fine and elegant by means of superfluous ornament. The idea of simplicity was lost sight of and the result was a style nothing short of ridiculous.

Happily we have outgrown the extravagances of that period and have returned to a greater architectural and decorative sanity, but we still have need to be on our guard. Someone is always trying to persuade us to build a bungalow of ornate design where no bungalow should be, with perhaps a huge pile of cobblestones as an outside chimney.

By way of illustration, the matter of gravestones occurs to me. Where can you find a collection of inartistic horrors more depressing than in the average cemetery.

By the same token, I never feel as comfortable in an elaborate garden, with its topiary work, its sculpture and elaborately designed beds and borders as in some old-fashioned garden that is devoted to the simple end of growing flowers. Content reigns in the simple garden.

And the same is true of the old Colonial farmhouse. Perhaps it was the poverty of the builder that made artificial ornament impossible, at any rate, we find here the last word in simplicity and because that simplicity is combined with perfect proportions the result gives pleasure not experienced when one gazes on a more elaborate and expensive example of the average builder's idea of art.

There is a beauty in ornament that is not to be gained when it is handled by a master like Sir Christopher Wren or Thomas Sheraton but even these masters based their work on a fundamental simplicity. And, for us who are not masters, simplicity in art, as in manners, character and dress, is the safest and sanest criterion from which we may depart only when there is a genuine reason for so doing.

Self restraint which is an essential element of simplicity often demands greater strength of character and higher moral and artistic ideals than those showier attributes which are, in the last analysis merely pretense.

Musical Topics

Edited by Mrs. K. L. Skahen

Louise Homer

Mme. Homer, the great contralto, is no less admirable as the mother of lovely children than as the American singer who created a stir in Europe 15 years ago and has since then been one of the most famous artists in the world.

"There is nothing," she says "that can compare with the sadness of a lonesome, distrustful artist who has sacrificed all natural affection and friendship upon the cruel altar of art and who has spent a life seeking only his or her own inordinate aming only. When the distractions of success begin to lose lustre and the excitement of public admiration ceases to be a novelty, the pitiable egoist finds himself alone in the world with no one to care for and no one to trust. Such an artistic life is bare and empty. No nature can expand nor grow beautiful without something on which to be nourished. The greatest gift God has bestowed upon us is love: not self love, but love to be given to parents and children, and no artist is truly ripe and great who has not given her heart to a child."

At the Metropolitan opera house, Mme. Homer's name has been identified for several years with such roles as Amneris, Ortrud, Fricke, Erda, Waltraute, Brangane, Delila, Leonora, Azucena and Orfeo. Numerous other charters have been impersonated by her, but the brief list given above includes her more celebrated parts. In concert she has always been particularly distinguished as one of the very few opera stars with a broad grasp of program making and song interpretation.

Ethel Leginska

It will be a surprise to many admirers of Ethel Leginska, the pianist, to learn that this remarkably gifted artist devoted much time during the past summer to composition. At a beautiful seaside resort on the Jersey coast, Leginska, under the guidance of Ernest Bloch, spent the heated season in writing music for the various poems she has gathered. The result will be seen on the concert programs of well known singers who have pronounced the Leginska songs "gems" and are planning to use them in their various concert tours. Several years ago this pianist wrote, "In a Garden," which has been sung many times in public, and an encore is always demanded after it is heard. Leginska's new compositions are clever and original.

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